



Department of Justice

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ARRESTED FUGITIVES TO APPEAR IN COURT ON MAY 14

*– Father fled to Mexico with girlfriend after being released
from custody for potential kidney donation to son*

LOUISVILLE, KY - Byron Keith Perkins, age 39, formerly of Campbellsville, Kentucky, in Taylor County, and Lea Ann Howard, age 36, formerly of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, in Mercer County, were arrested on April 25, 2007, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Complaints filed in U.S. District Court in Louisville charged Perkins with failure to surrender himself to the United States Marshal Service for sentencing, and Howard with aiding and abetting Perkins in his flight from custody, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

Perkins and Howard will appear before United States Magistrate Judge James D. Moyer for an initial appearance on Monday, May 14, 2007, at 2:30 p.m.

On November 22, 2005, Perkins plead guilty in U.S. District Court in Louisville to knowingly and intentionally possessing with the intent to distribute a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of marijuana, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime. (See Attached Media Release.) While awaiting his sentencing, Perkins requested and received a release from custody for the purpose of undergoing medical testing to determine if he was a suitable candidate to donate a kidney to his son. Under the terms of this release, Perkins was ordered to return to the custody

of the U.S. Marshal Service in Louisville, Kentucky, no later than 4:30 p.m. on January 24, 2006. Perkins did not return to custody.

After extensive investigative efforts to locate the fugitives, the United States Marshal Service located and arrested Perkins and Howard in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on April 25, 2007. The Marshal Service acted on information it received from a confidential source.

United States Attorney David L. Huber praised the efforts of the United States Marshal Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in their effective response to these very serious offenses.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert B. Bonar, and it was investigated by the United States Marshal Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years. In the underlying case against him, **Perkins** faces maximum potential penalties of life imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000, and a period of supervised release of not less than 2 years. Perkins faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years. **There is no parole in the federal judicial system**

A criminal Complaint is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty

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